

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1 – 5: Cancelled

6. (currently amended) A driving axle for a vehicle that is driven by an electric motor, comprising:

a driven motor shaft, wherein said electric motor is disposed on said motor shaft;

drive shafts coupled to said motor shaft via the interposition of a reduction transmission stage and a following differential transmission, wherein said drive shafts are intended for wheels respectively disposed thereon;

an externally toothed sun pinion that, as part of said reduction transmission stage, is disposed on said motor shaft, which wherein said motor shaft is mounted in motor shaft bearings that are connected to a gearbox of said reduction transmission stage, wherein said motor shaft bearings are embodied as bearings that absorb radial and axial forces;

a sleeve that is disposed and supported between said motor shaft bearings and said sun pinion ~~and is supported on opposite sides against said motor shaft bearings and said sun pinion;~~

a securing means disposed on a free end of said motor shaft for fixing said sun pinion against said sleeve; and

gears of said reduction transmission stage that mesh with said sun pinion, wherein said sun pinion and said gears are embodied as helical gears having a force component that acts in the direction of said motor shaft bearings.

7. (previously presented) A driving axle according to claim 6, wherein said sun pinion is supported directly against said sleeve.

8. (previously presented) A driving axle according to claim 6, wherein a spacer disk is disposed between said sleeve and said sun pinion.

9. (previously presented) A driving axle according to claim 6, wherein said securing means fixes said sun pinion against said sleeve with bias.

10. (previously presented) A driving axle according to claim 6, wherein said sun pinion is disposed between said sleeve and said securing means with slight axial play.